

Andrew Jackson to Levi Woodbury, September 11, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (LEVI WOODBURY).

Hermitage, September 11, 1832.

Confidential

My Dear Sir, It has been more than intimated to me, by a confidential friend, that *efforts have been made, and perhaps not without success*, by the Nullifiers, to disaffect the Officer of the Navy in command at charlston. towards the Union, and secure his co-operation with them in the event of serious difficulties happening. While I will not admit the probability of things in the South coming to a desperate issue, yet it behoves us to be ready for any emergency. I communicate this information to you with the suggestion that you make such arrangements as will enable the Government to be relieved, if it should unfortunately become necessary, of any difficulty in respect to this matter. It is further said that the Legislature will be convened immediately after the elections in So Ca, and that then the Nullifiers will determine their course (in S. C).

It is likewise stated that the same efforts, of a simular character with [those] mentioned to have been used with the Navy, have also been practiced by the Nullifiers upon the Army, in whose cooperation they confide. I desire you to communicate this confidentially to the Secretary of War, and request him, for me, to make arrangements to relieve the troops now at charlston at any time it may be desireable, and have in our Forts at charleston, officers, who cannot be corrupted by nullifyers. The idea is, that by the treachery of

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our officers, to get possession of our Forts, and thereby prevent a blockade. *This must guarded against, and prevented.*

I am becoming more and more convinced of the propriety of our having Captain Elliot afloat at the Norfolk Station that he may be ready to take command of the squadron it may be necessary to employ, if we shall be required to use any.

I shall set out in a few days on my return to Washington via K.y. and reach the city as soon as I can by easy marches. My health continues good. Make my respects and that of Mr Breathet to all the heads of Departments and Bureaus and their families including your own and believe me very respectfully yours